

# CITIZEN SAILORS

A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE



[www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

1915

## Navy Reserve Officially Established

Known as the **Naval Reserve**, the Navy Reserve was officially established March 3, 1915, in preparation for America's inevitable entry into World War I. Initially, only enlisted Navy veterans were eligible to join.

### WORLD WAR I

Enabled transport of 2,000,000+ U.S. service members to Europe by 1918



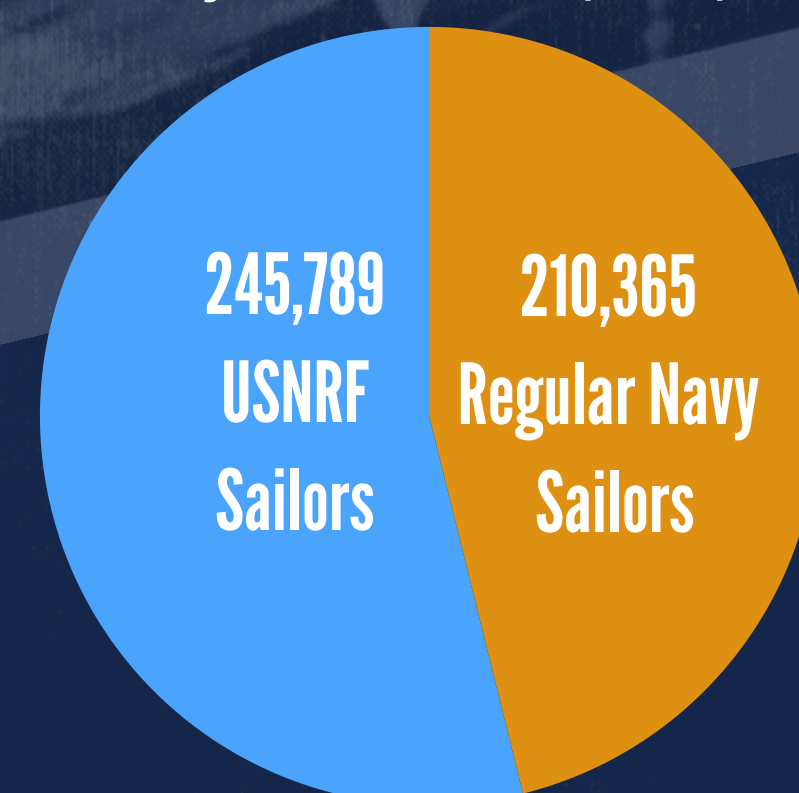
Nearly 12,000 women served in the Naval Reserve by the end of WWI.

1916

## U.S. Naval Reserve Force

Founded on Aug. 29, 1916, the **U.S. Naval Reserve Force** (USNRF) opened up enlistment requirements and organized Reservists into six categories based on their experience, trade, and area of operability.

U.S. Naval Force  
By End of WWI (1919)

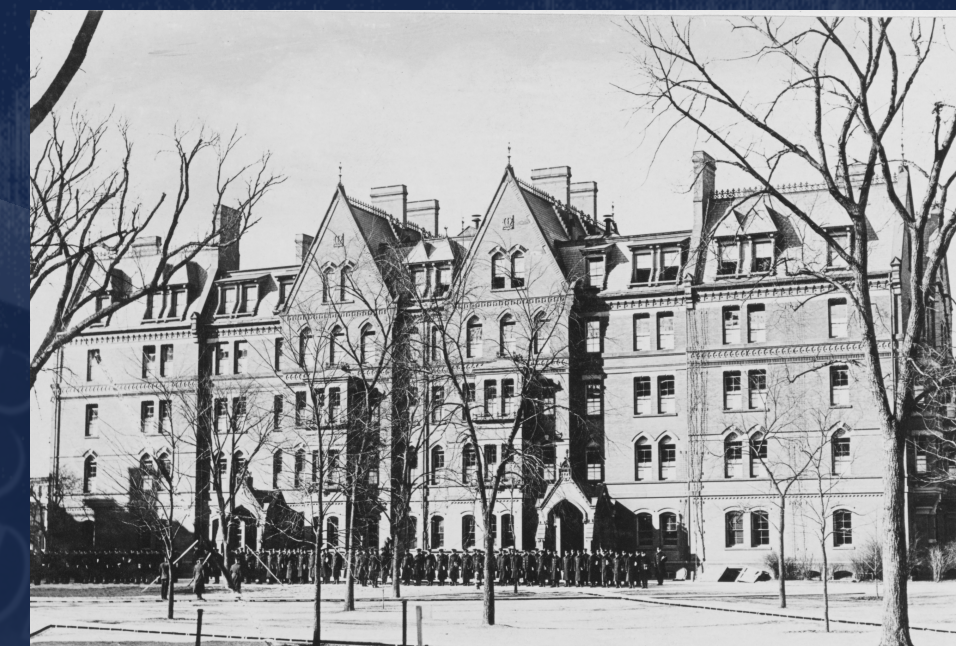


Regular Navy Sailors (46%)  
USNRF Sailors (54%)

1926

## Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps

The Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) was established in the fall of 1926 at Harvard, Yale, Northwestern, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Washington, and University of California, Berkeley.



Cadets drilling in front of Matthews Hall, Harvard University.

1935

## Aviation Cadet Program

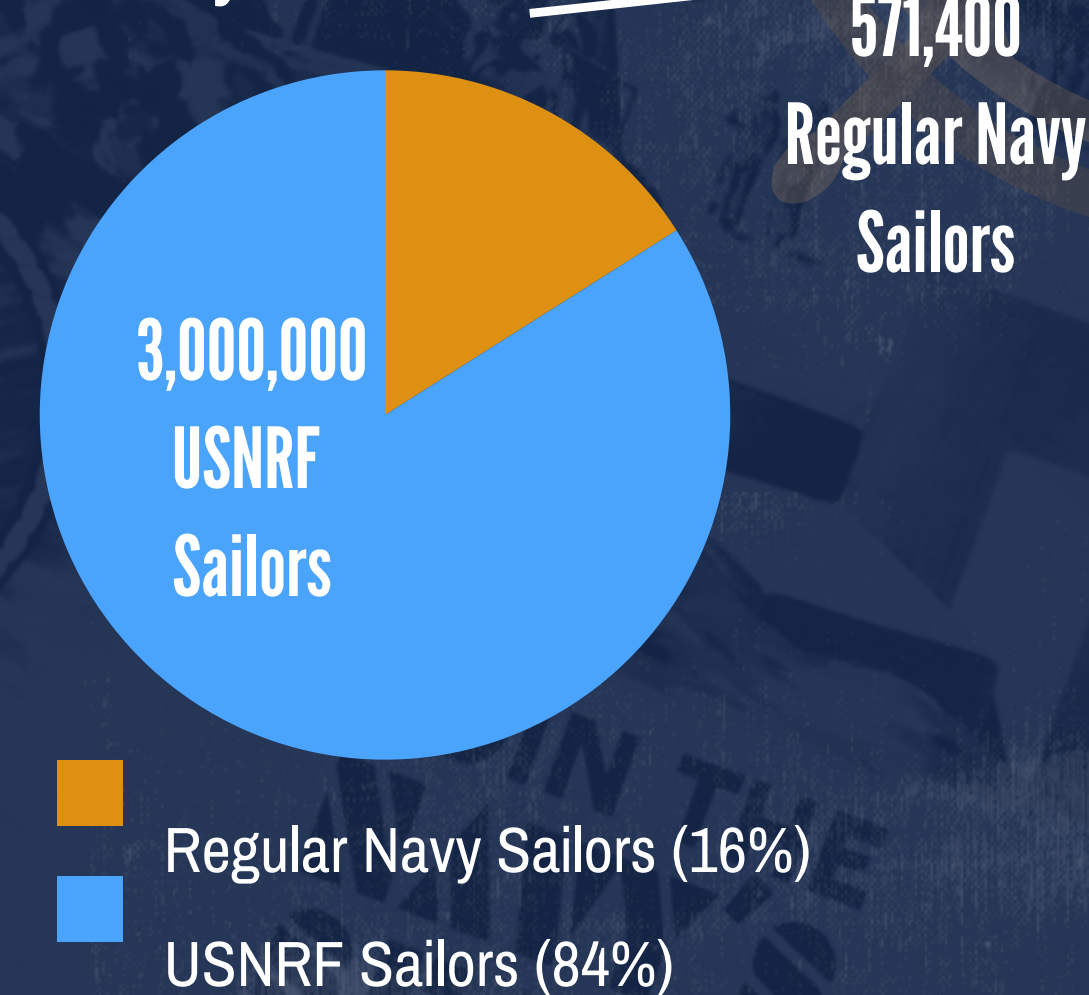
Enacted by Congress April 15, 1935, this program allowed qualified candidates who were working toward a college degree the opportunity to enlist in the Naval Reserve and receive flight training, then go on to serve three years of active-duty service in the fleet. Candidates that successfully completed the program would receive their commission and become aviators in the Reserves.

1941

## Fleet Reservists Recalled to Active Duty

By the spring of 1941, all Reservists had been recalled to active-duty. By the end of World War II, there were more Navy Reservists than active duty Sailors. Moreover, 86,000 of those Reservists were women.

U.S. Naval Force  
By End of WWII



Regular Navy Sailors (16%)  
USNRF Sailors (84%)

1950+



1950

**Korean War**  
**100,000+**

Navy Reserve Sailors returned to active duty when North Korea invaded South Korea.

**140,000**

Naval Reserve Sailors were serving on active duty when the fighting ended in 1953.

1961

**Cold War**  
**40**

Navy Reserve Training Ships Activated

**3**

Naval Reserve squadrons are mobilized.

1967

**Vietnam War**  
**2**

Reserve Seabee battalions are mobilized.

**3**

Naval Air Reserve squadrons are mobilized.

1990

**Desert Shield/Desert Storm**  
**20,000**

Reserve Sailors deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

**3**

Over the next 10 years, Naval Reserve Sailors also mobilized to three areas: Bosnia, Kosovo, and the Balkans.

2001

**9/11**  
**70,000+**

Reserve Sailors mobilized to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, and worldwide in support of the Global War on Terror.

2005

**Redesignation**  
In 2005, the U.S. Naval Reserve was redesignated as the U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR).